

☐ UNCLASSIFIED☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

77-2181

FROM:

Anthony A. Lapham
General Counsel

EXTENSION

6111/
9212

NO.

DATE

10/7/77

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

~~Legislative Counsel~~

2.

3.

Inspector General ✓

4.

DU-4

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.


13.

14.

15.

1. FYI in connection with Select Committee on Assassinations Investigation.

3. Any thoughts on whether any action or further investigation needs to be undertaken with respect to this information.


 Tony Lapham
☐

SECRET

☐

CONFIDENTIAL

☐INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐

UNCLASSIFIED

~~Administrative - Internal Use Only~~

October 7, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Anthony A. Lapham

FROM : A. R. Cinquegrana
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT : BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE Soft File Review - "Kelly" -
Dimitrov, D.A.

1. I have been reviewing summary sheets prepared by the Office of Security concerning several hundred soft files on individuals associated, or considered for association, in some way with the Agency's BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE activities. In the course of that review I came upon the following case which I discussed with Dick Lansdale and which we agreed should be brought to your attention for your information and whatever action you may deem appropriate.

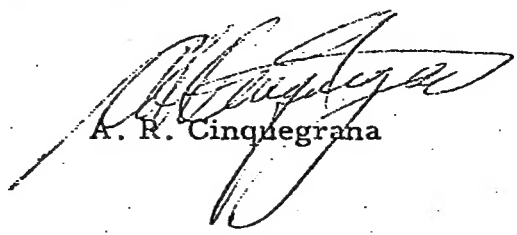
2. As is indicated in the attached copy of the soft file summary and the 27 January 1952 memorandum upon which it is based, D. A. Dimitrov, designated "Kelly," is a Bulgarian expatriate who appears to have been imprisoned in Greece some time in 1950 and 1951 on false pretenses because the Agency feared he would accept an offer from French Intelligence. After six months in custody, he was flown to Panama where he was misrepresented as a psychopath and confined in a U.S. Military Hospital for several months. The official security file shows he was then removed from the hospital and held by the Agency at Fort Clayton in Panama for three years. He was then returned to Greece and ultimately allowed to enter the U.S. as a refugee. It appears from the attached copy of a 7 February 1952 memorandum that the "Artichoke approach," i.e., the use of drugs to reverse his hostility toward the U.S. and U.S. intelligence agencies, was never consummated.

3. This man has had several contacts with the Agency since coming to the U.S. In 1961 an Assistant to the DCI was contacted by a representative of Parade magazine who had been informed by Dimitrov of his confinement by the Agency. The Office of Security responded to the effect that this man was disreputable, unreliable, and full of wild stories about CIA. As you will note from the attached transcript of an 8 September interview on Good Morning America, Mr. Dimitrov (now General Dimitrov and known as General Donald A. Donaldson) apparently is alive and alleging that he knows who ordered the assassination of President Kennedy.

~~Administrative - Internal Use Only~~

Administrative - Internal Use Only

4. Based solely upon the soft file summary, and prior to reviewing the official security file from which I extracted the additional details, it appeared to me that the nature of the Agency's treatment of Dimitrov might be something which should be brought to the attention of appropriate officials both within and outside the Agency. The fact that he is still active and is making allegations connected with the Kennedy assassination may add yet another dimension to this story.



A. R. Cinquegrana

Attachment

Administrative - Internal Use Only

I. Soft File Summary

1. Title of File: Kelly
2. Brief Biographic Data: Kelly's true name is DIMITROV, a 29-year-old Bulgarian who was head of a small political party based in Greece and ostensibly working for Bulgarian independence.
3. Nature of Relationship/Interest: It was learned that French Intelligence Service was attempting to bribe KELLY and make him a double agent and Kelly appeared to be interested in the French offers. Accordingly, a plan was made to have KELLY believe that he was going to be assassinated and for protection he was placed in custody of the Greek police who then put him in prison. KELLY was held in the prison for six months until the Greek authorities decided that KELLY was a nuisance and they told our people to take him back. He was then flown to Panama where, through arrangement, he was placed in a U. S. military hospital as a psychopathic patient. According to the 25 January 1952 memorandum, KELLY had been in the hospital for several months and the hospital authorities want him out since he is causing problems. He is not a psychopathic personality. Because of his confinement in a Greek prison and his stay in a military hospital, KELLY became very hostile toward the United States and our intelligence operations in particular.

OPC was considering an "ARTICHOKE" approach to KELLY to see if it would be possible to reorient KELLY favorably toward us. However, OPC advised on 2 February 1952 that some opposition had arisen in the top level of OPC to the handling of the KELLY case in the manner that had been proposed. Since this opposition had arisen, nothing would be done to the KELLY case.

4. Period of Relationship: No dates supplied
5. Indications of Drug Experimentation: None found
6. Co-optee Interest: Not indicated
7. Project Associates: (possible) Dr. Robert Ecke.

II. Office of Security File Summary - DIMITROV, Dimitre
Adamov (Iyle O. Kelly) (QKSTAIR) (SHAM/BGCONVOY)
#46165

1. Short Summary of Agency Interest/Use:

The file was opened in October 1950, when DIMITROV was of operational interest to the Agency while employed for Radio Athens in Greece. Previously, DIMITROV had fled from Bulgaria in July 1947. As of October 1951, DIMITROV was in a hospital in South America, apparently under Agency auspices. In 1956 DIMITROV was brought to the United States, apparently after returning to Athens from South America, and the Agency made no further operational use of DIMITROV. In June 1960 DIMITROV [under case #33259--Dimitre DIMITROFF ("Diko")] had contact with the Contact Division outlining his background, claiming financial difficulties, and requesting the Agency back his plans for covert activity against Bulgaria. The Agency apparently took no action in this regard. During this contact DIMITROV claimed that circa 1951 he was held in a hospital/cell in Panama City.

2. Background Investigations: None

3. Confirmation of ARTICHOKE/BLUEBIRD/MKULTRA Interest:
No

4. Project Associates: None

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File

FROM : Morse Allen

SUBJECT: Kelly Case

DATE: 25 January 1952

On Friday, 25 January 1952, the writer was called to the office of Mr. Bannerman for the purpose of a conference with one Mr. Prichett, EE/OPC, concerning the instant case.

Mr. Prichett explained in substance the Kelly case as follows: Kelly, (whose real name is Dimitrov), is a 29-year-old Bulgarian and was the head of a small political party based in Greece and ostensibly working for Bulgarian independence. Kelly was described by Prichett as being young, ambitious, bright (elementary college education), a sort of a "man-on-a-horse" type but a typical Balkan politician. According to Prichett, our people discovered that French Intelligence Service ~~was~~ attempting to bribe Kelly and make him a double agent and Kelly was looking with favor upon the French offers. Accordingly, a plot was rigged in which Kelly was told he was going to be ~~assigned~~ ^{assisted} and as a "protection", he was placed in custody of the Greek Police who threw Kelly into a Greek prison. Kelly was held in the Greek prison for six months until the Greek authorities decided that Kelly was a nuisance and they told our people to take him back. Since our people were unable to dispose of Kelly in Greece, they flew him to Panama where, through arrangement, he was placed in a U.S. Military Hospital as a psychopathic patient. Kelly now has been in the U.S. military hospital for several months and the hospital authorities now want to get him out since he is causing considerable trouble, bothering other patients, etc. Kelly is not a psychopathic personality.

Prichett explained that they can dispose of Kelly by the simple process of sending him to a friend of his in Caracas, Venezuela, and as far as they are concerned, that type of disposal is perfectly o.k. However, because of his confinement in a Greek prison and his stay in a military hospital, Kelly has become very hostile toward the United States and our intelligence operations in particular. Hence, OPC is considering an "Artichoke" approach to Kelly to see if it would be possible to re-orient Kelly favorably toward us. This operation, which will necessarily involve the use of drugs is being considered by OPC with a possibility that Dr. Ecke and Mike Gladych will carry out the operation presumably at the military hospital in Panama. Also involved in this would be a Bulgarian interpreter who is a consultant to this Agency since neither Ecke nor Gladych speak Bulgarian.

Mr. Bannerman pointed out to Prichett that this type of operation could only be carried out with the authorization of Security and that, under no circumstances whatsoever, could anyone but an authorized M.D. administer drugs to any subject of this Agency of any type. Bannerman pointed out that there was a strong possibility that the military

^{days}
^{adjustment}
 authorities would not permit their hospital to be used for/type of work and also that a re-conditioning operation of this type might take as long as 30-60. Bannerman further pointed out that ~~such~~ if such an operation were carried on, Security would have to be cognizant of it, would have to be co-ordinated into the ~~organization~~ and would possibly take over and run the operation themselves since this type of work is one ~~in~~ which Security handles *for this agency*.

patch It was agreed between Prichett, Bannerman, and the writer that a conference would be laid on Monday afternoon when OPC representatives and the Bulgarian interpreter return from Boston and their talk with Mike Gladych. At which time, the angles would be explored and a ~~dis-~~ ~~patch~~ ~~patch~~ would be forwarded to our people in Panama directing them to find out whether the Army would permit such an operation and whether the Army would allow the Agency to have the use of the necessary rooms, medical facilities, etc. as would be required for this type of operation. At this time, it was also to be determined whether the disposal of Kelly ~~to~~ Venezuela could in fact be laid on.

Comment:

This particular operation was mentioned in general terms to the writer by Mr. Walter Driscoll approximately thirty days ago on an informal basis but no significant details were given at this time.

While the technique that Ecke and Gladych are considering for use in this case is not known to the writer, the writer believes the approach will be made through the standard narco-hypnosis technique. Re-conditioning and re-orienting an individual in such a matter, in the opinion of the writer, cannot be accomplished easily and will require a great deal of time and the ~~±~~ fact that an interpreter is necessary in the case complicates it considerably more. It is also believed that with our present ~~±~~ knowledge, we would have no absolute guarantee that the subject in this case would maintain a positive friendly attitude toward us even though there is apparently a successful response to the treatment. The writer did not suggest to Prichett that perhaps a total amnesia could be created by a series of electro shocks, but merely indicated that amnesia's under drug treatments were not certain.

MORSE ALLEN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File
FROM : Morse Allen
SUBJECT: Kelly Case

DATE: 7 February 1952

1. On Wednesday, 30 January 1952, at 9:30 AM, the writer called Mr. Prichett relative the Kelly case. Prichett stated that the OPC official and interpreter had made a trip to Boston and had seen Gladych. Prichett stated that Gladych and the interpreter had reached complete accord on the handling of the Kelly situation. Prichett then stated that he was trying to arrange that the Kelly case could be lined up completely before he set up conferences with I & SO relative the trip to Panama. Prichett promised to call the writer at the end of the week.

2

2. On/February 1952, at 12:15 AM, Prichett called the writer relative the Kelly case. Prichett stated that in OPC at the top level, some opposition had arisen to the handling of the Kelly case in the manner that had been proposed. Prichett stated that since this opposition of the higher-ups had arisen, nothing would be done relative the Kelly case. Prichett stated that he would call immediately upon any new developments along these lines. The writer informed Prichett that I & SO would be glad to consider the matter and would wait until it was brought up again and would await his call relative any new developments.

MORSE ALLEN

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

\$32.85

4435 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 244-3541

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning, America

STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

DATE September 8, 1977 7:00 AM

CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An Interview with Villiam Altmans

SANDY HILL: Earlier this morning, we talked with Villiam (?) Altmans. He is a Dutch journalist. And we talked to him about the assassination of President Kennedy. And Mr. Altmans has told us that earlier this week, he turned over to the U. S. government the name of the source who he claims can tell the full, the true story of a conspiracy in the assassination. Well, this morning, Mr. Altmans is going to tell us the name that he told the government.

*

*

*

HILL: Villiam Altmans is a Dutch journalist who has spent more than ten years looking into the assassination of President Kennedy. He has been on this program twice before, first to tell us about his source George deMorenschild (?), who either committed suicide or was killed just before testifying on the assassination. Mr. Altmans says he now has a new potential witness, and he feels this witness can expose the existence and the details of the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

A letter to Mr. Altmans -- It was dated July 8th of this year and signed by the deputy chief counsel of the House Committee of Assassinations, Robert Tenenbaum -- says, in part, "If you are interested in seeking the truth, and I believe you are, then it seems to me that you have no option but to supply the committee with the identity of your new witness."

Well, this week Mr. Altmans did give the name to the committee and to the Justice Department. This morning he is here with me and with ABC correspondent Bob Clark, who covered the Warren Commission investigation.

Mr. Altman, what name did you turn over to the committee? Who is your source?

VILLAM ALTMANS: My new source is General Donald A. Donaldson whose name I handed to the Justice Department, as well as to the Select Committee on Assassinations two days ago. He is originally a Bulgarian, called Deko Demetroff (?), who came to this country at the end of the Second World War and was named by President Roosevelt, by presidential decree, a general of the United States of America. He was given an American name and he was made a citizen of the United States of America at that time.

Shortly afterwards, President Roosevelt used General Demetroff for secret missions into the Balkan area. And President Truman also made use of General Demetroff's service.

HILL: What does he know?

ALTMANS: General Demetroff claims, among other things in a letter that he sent in September of '75 to the committee of Senator Frank Church, that he knows the name of the man who ordered the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

HILL: How does he know this?

ALTMANS: That is what I think the authorities in Washington should find out. For that purpose, I have given, as full as possible, all information to both the Justice Department, the representative of Mr. Griffin Bell, Robert Keech, and to the Select Committee on Assassinations of Congress. I have given all the information I could gather over the past years. And I think the proper way now is to leave it to the authorities to determine further details. It's not my job.

BOB CLARK: And you have talked at length with General Donaldson....

ALTMANS: Oh, yes.

CLARK: Has he revealed the name of the man he regards as the assassin, the man who directed the assassination, to you?

ALTMANS: I understand your question, Bob. I would like not to answer that, because I don't want to endanger myself any further than I am already. As a matter of fact, I called the press conference -- a press conference a week ago, and I am going through this procedure in order to pull myself out of this matter and leave it to the American authorities.

I did the same thing with the former witness, George DeMorenschild. I pulled out at a certain moment when I was satisfied with the information. I handed it to the Select Committee and

I withdrew. Now he was killed. I do my best to see that this man doesn't get killed or kills himself before he can corroborate my statement.

CLARK: Are you concerned that by revealing his name today you may be endangering his life?

ALTMANS: I could imagine that that is the case. But here you have to make a choice. Where is the obligation of a journalist? Where is the obligation of a journalist, if he is satisfied that this information is serious enough to be revealed to the proper authorities in the middle of an investigation of who killed John F. Kennedy? I have to make a choice. I put the choice up to the General last Saturday, even this past Saturday in the Heathrow Airport, London, Holiday Inn. I put the choice still before this General Donaldson and said please come forth on Dutch television and tell the story yourself; I don't want to tell it; you have to tell it. And he refused. He threatened to shoot me if I went any further in my revelations. I passed on all this information on tape to the Justice Department.

CLARK: One thing that I find confusing. The General talks in his letter to the Church Committee about knowing who gave the direction to assassinate President Kennedy.

ALTMANS: Who gave the order, he says.

CLARK: Gave the order. Is he talking about the period of 1962 when he met with Kennedy?

ALTMANS: Exactly. Exactly.

CLARK: So he is not saying that he knows the man who gave the order in 1963 to commit the assassination.

ALTMANS: That, according to the General, is the same -- the same person. It's the same group. There is no difference between '62 and '63. As a matter of fact, he maintains that President Kennedy was first warned of an assassination plot against him by Soviet Intelligence, and he claims that he was called in by John F. Kennedy to the White House because they knew each other, like he also had known President Truman and President Roosevelt, ex-President Roosevelt. He was called in by John F. Kennedy to the White House and he was told by President Kennedy that he knew that an assassination plot was discovered against the life of President Kennedy. And President Kennedy asked General Demetroff to assist in the investigation to unravel this, to take counter-measures against this plot. And of course they failed.

HILL: Mr. Altmans, we would obviously like to continue this discussion with you further....

ALTMANS: Yes, ma'am.

HILL: But right now we're going to stop for a couple of commercial messages.

JOHN LINDSAY: Well, there'll be more of Sandy and Bob Clark's talk with Mr. Altmans in our next half-hour. Before we went on the air, ABC News contacted Senator Frank Church. And he said that he did not recall receiving General Donaldson's letter and he does not, in fact, even know General Donaldson.

And we'll be back right after these messages and some news.

*

*

*

HILL: In our last half hour, we were talking with William Altmans -- he is a Dutch journalist -- about the Kennedy assassination. And he says that he now has a new witness who potentially can answer a lot of questions about the Kennedy assassination, give specific details about it.

You say, Mr. Altmans, that this man is a General Donaldson, that he sent a letter to Senator Frank Church in September of 1975. Now what happened with that letter? And what all did it entail?

ALTMANS: Well, as you know, he offered to testify for the Church Committee on his knowledge of who ordered the assassination of John F. Kennedy. And of course, it is quite surprising that according to General Donaldson, he was received by President Ford in the White House in February, 1976 and discussed at length the assassination with former President Ford. And this is important. He is so emphatic about it that I think it is important enough information to be investigated by the Select Committee on Assassinations.

HILL: But what happened at that time when he sent the letter?

ALTMANS: He said -- he says that President Ford, Senator Church and he came to an agreement not to bring up this information that he had at that time. I guess that he -- and he put so many conditions to the release of this information that President Ford and Mr. Church found it unacceptable.

HILL: Mr. Altmans, this morning, Bob and I had an opportunity to see this letter as well.

ALTMANS: The letter was on the screen, yes.

HILL: But we read through it. It seemed rambling....

ALTMANS: It's absolutely true. Absolutely. I find the same thing as you do.

HILL: Don't you believe that that was substantive reason

then perhaps for them to question and to put it back on the back burner, to doubt his credibility and who he was and what he believed?

ALTMANS: I completely agree with you. But when it is true that the letter was -- the letter was written in September; the meeting with Ford was in February. That is maybe the period they used to check this man's credibility and identity, etcetera, etcetera. But when it is true that he did meet with former President Ford and the fact that I'm revealing that now upset him last Saturday so tremendously in the Holiday Inn in London Heathrow Airport that he went as far as to say if I would violate the breach of confidence between him personally and President Ford, he would shoot me [sic]. So I have passed on this information to the Justice Department two days ago and said the man is threatening me now because I'm revealing the information he had.

CLARK: One point I think we need to make strongly -- the General is talking about things that he and President Kennedy discussed in 1962....

ALTMANS: Presumably.....

CLARK: After the assassination, Bobby Kennedy continued as Attorney General for a year. Presumably he would have had all of this information. He would have had the name too. If this is true, why, in your view, did Bobby Kennedy never pursue it?

ALTMANS: Well, that is the great question mark: why the Kennedy family doesn't say a word. According to General Donaldson, the Kennedy family is in the possession of the top secret report on the Kennedy assassination. According to General Donaldson, both Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Theodore Sorensen are in the possession of this document.

CLARK: But I believe that document goes back to 1963 or '64. Presumably....

ALTMANS: Exactly.

CLARK: ...Bobby Kennedy was aware of that document too.

ALTMANS: Maybe. And that's why I think if a man with this posture, with his career, with this having been sent on secret missions by President Roosevelt and by President Truman, etcetera, is received by Kennedy, had this information, I think at this day and age, in this moment of history, this Select Committee on Assassinations should investigate this information, should call this man to testify in Washington also, although I'm extremely scared that when I told the committee to investigate deMoreschild, he was dead the same day that they invited him. And I'm now ex-

-6-

tremely worried once more that anything might happen to General Donaldson.

HILL: Mr. Altman, you had told us specifically about some forces that the General talked to you about....

ALTMAN: Yes.

HILL: And that is, forces who not only killed Kennedy, but who intimidated Presidents Ford and Carter, apparently Vice-President Rockefeller as well; that they, in fact, were involved in what you feel is the killing of George deMorenschild, and also the son of Aristotle Onassis.

Now who are these forces?

ALTMAN: Madame -- Sandra, I am just as alarmed and incredulous about all this as you. All I'm doing is reporting the information I got to the Justice Department and to the Select Committee. And I hope the authorities in the United States are qualified to estimate [sic] this information, will take over. That's all I'm doing.

HILL: Is there any reason for you to believe that the CIA is in any way related with these forces?

ALTMAN: That is what General Donaldson implied and said straight. Very, very much so. It is a group within the CIA. It's in the letter to Senator Church, too; that he writes this group within the CIA should be -- should be exposed. He believes so.

And so, therefore, let the authorities take over this man before he gets killed or kills himself in an obscure way.

HILL: Mr. Altman, thank you very much.